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NO. 51.

BULLETIN OF FOREIGN PLANT INTRODUCTIONS.

November 1 to 15, 1910.

NEW PLANT IMMIGRANTS.

AMYGDALUS NANA. (Amygdalaceae.) 28942-944. Seeds of Turkestan wild almonds. From Zarafshan valley, Province of Samarkand, Turkestan. "The Central Asian form of the wild almond found on the stony, sterile, sunburned mountain sides at elevations from 3,000 to 7,000 feet. Of value in dry and hot regions for the following purposes: 1st, as a possible stock for almonds in desert regions; 2nd, as a possible factor in hybridization work to create a bushy form of almond, fit to exist in regions where great droughts are experienced; 3rd, as a spring flowering garden shrub in desert regions; 4th, as a possible, nearly impenetrable hedge-plant in arid regions." (Meyer's introductions.) For distribution later.

AMYGDALUS PERSICA. (Amygdalaceae.) 28963. Seeds of a nectarine from Samarkand, Turkestan. "A small nectarine of very firm flesh and of sub-acid flavor; red throughout and in the distance resembling a crab-apple more than anything else. Said to come from Chartchui." (Meyer's introduction.) For distribution later.

CALLIGONUM APHYLLUM. (Polygonaceae.) 28975. Seed from Chartchui, Turkestan. (Meyer's introduction.) For distribution later.

CALLIGONUM CAPUT-MEDUSAE. (Polygonaceae.) 28974. Seed from Chartchui, Turkestan. "This and the preceding shrub, used in sand-binding and desert reclamation, flower beautifully toward the end of May and in early June. They are strongly recommended as ornamental park and garden shrubs in desert regions where high summer temperatures prevail, but where in winter the mercury does not drop below zero." (Meyer's introduction.) For distribution later.

CAREX PHYSODES. (Cyperaceae.) 28977. Seeds of sedge from Chartchui, Turkestan. "A rare species of sedge; a native of the desert, used in sand-binding work along the Central Asian railroads. To be tested for similar purposes in the arid sections of the southwestern United States, and also as a possible lawn sedge in said regions." (Meyer's introduction.) For distribution later.

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HALOXYLON AMMODENDRON. (Chenopodiaceae.) 28976. Seed from Chartchui, Turkestan. "The famous Saxaul tree, one of the chief fuel supplies of the deserts and oases in Central Asia. One of the principal sand-binding plants in use on the Trans-Caspian railroad." (Meyer's introduction.) For distribution later. (See photograph.)

PRUNUS ARMENIACA. (Amygdalaceae.) 28953-962. Seeds of apricots from Turkestan. "These apricots are to be sown to obtain some superior varieties of apricots with sweet kernels, which would bring a much higher price on the market than the present bitter kernels do." All of above are sweet-kerneled varieties, and several of them are noted as of good flavor. (Meyer's introductions.) For distribution later. (See photograph.)

PRUNUS CERASIFERA DIVARICATA. (Amygdalaceae.) 28948-951. Seeds of plums from Russian Turkestan. Small sour plums, not larger than marbles. On account of their great productiveness and their resistance to long periods of drought and of heat, these plums may prove to be valuable in hybridization work. (Meyer's introductions.) For distribution later.

PRUNUS MICROCARPA. (Amygdalaceae.) 28946. Seeds of a wild cherry from mountains near Bachar-den, Turkestan. "A wild cherry growing into a tall bush up to 10 feet high. Found between stony debris in dry river beds and on rocky mountain sides. Stands apparently great drought. Of value perhaps as a stock for cherries in stony and dry localities." (Meyer's introduction.) For distribution later. (See photograph.)

PRUNUS PROSTRATA. (Amygdalaceae.) 28945. Seed of a bush-cherry from mountains near Stood and Peki, Province of Samarkand, Turkestan. "A bush-cherry found on stony and sterile mountain slopes and in cliffs, growing from 1 to 8 feet tall, bearing multitudes of small red cherries of a sour taste, varying much, however, in flavor and size on various plants. This cherry stands an apparently great amount of cold and drought, and might, after some improvement, be made into a fruit for the home garden in the more northern sections of the United States. It may possibly also be hybridized with the large fruited sweet and sour cherries and thus create a race of bush-cherries fit for the drier sections. It may also be tested as a possible dwarfing stock for cherries in dry and sterile localities." (Meyer's introduction.) For distribution later. (See photograph.)

PRUNUS SP. (Amygdalaceae.) 28947. Seeds of a cherry from Askabad, Turkestan. "A small, dark-red, sour cherry, very juicy, said to come from Persia. Used stewed in compotes and in spirits.

To be tried under irrigation in the dry and hot sections of the United States." (Meyer's introductions.) For distribution later.

SALSOLA ARBUSCULA. (Chenopodiaceae.) 28973. Seed from Chartchui, Turkestan. "A shrub of peculiar appearance, having no leaves, but instead long, slender, green, drooping branches. Is used with much success in the sand-binding and desert-reclamation work along the Central Asian R. R. Recommended in the dry and hot sections of the United States for various purposes; 1st, for its sand-binding properties; 2nd, as an ornamental park and garden shrub; 3rd, as a fuel supply in desert regions. Obtained from Mr. W. A. Paletsky in charge of sand-binding operations along the railroads in Central Asia." (Meyer's introduction.) For distribution later.

NOTES FROM FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS.

AFRICA, Benguela. Mr. W. H. Sanders writes us September 1 that he is unable to secure for us seed of the Huilla (Vigna radicans) but calls attention to the existence of a mission called Huilla in Mossamedes evidently named from this plant.

AFRICA, Cape Town. Mr. Charles P. Lounsbury writes October 10 that he has failed so far in securing any asparagus seed but that Mr. N. S. Pillans, who has recently joined the department, will try to send roots of the wild sorts.

BRAZIL, Diamantina. Mr. Ernest G. Swain writes October 30, that he has at last located the Marmeleiro tree and has some slips planted which he will bring with him when he returns in the spring of 1911. Will soon send two lilies, a purple one and a red one, and is sending two fine cherries.

BRAZIL, Rio de Janeiro. Dr. Orville A. Derby writes November 1, that he is sending two kilos of the seed of Panicum Melinis (Melinis minutiflora), a forage grass, called there Capim melado. He is still hoping to secure the Brazilian persimmon.

CHINA, Hwai Yuan. Rev. Samuel Cochran writes October 10, that he is sending by freight about 100 pounds of hempseed and suggests the possibility of getting hemp from Kiukiang on the Yangtse River.

CHINA, Ya-Chow. Among the correspondents who have recently called are Mr. and Mrs. Harry Openshaw, who were on their way back to Ya-Chow, Sze-Chuan Province, Western China, where they have spent thirteen years in lay missionary work. During a most

interesting conference given up to a discussion of the products of the Ya-Chow country, the following interesting methods of ripening persimmons used by the natives came up. They are of especial interest in connection with Mr. H. C. Gore's work on persimmons here in the Department and the work of Vinson on ripening dates.

The commoner method, apparently used on a commercial scale, is to lay down a layer of lime, air-slaked, on an out door platform or bed of earth; on this lime straw is placed sufficiently thick to conceal the lime, and on this the green persimmons are placed. The rapidity of ripening or the completeness of the action was not observed by Mr. and Mrs. Openshaw.

The other method consisted in placing a number of green persimmons in a basket with a number of the coarse pears of the country. As the natives say, "the pears take the bitterness from the persimmons." As the baskets of ripening fruit are placed in closets to ripen, it is to be supposed that the pears never get so far as complete decay. After being used in this manner the pears are thrown away as spoiled.

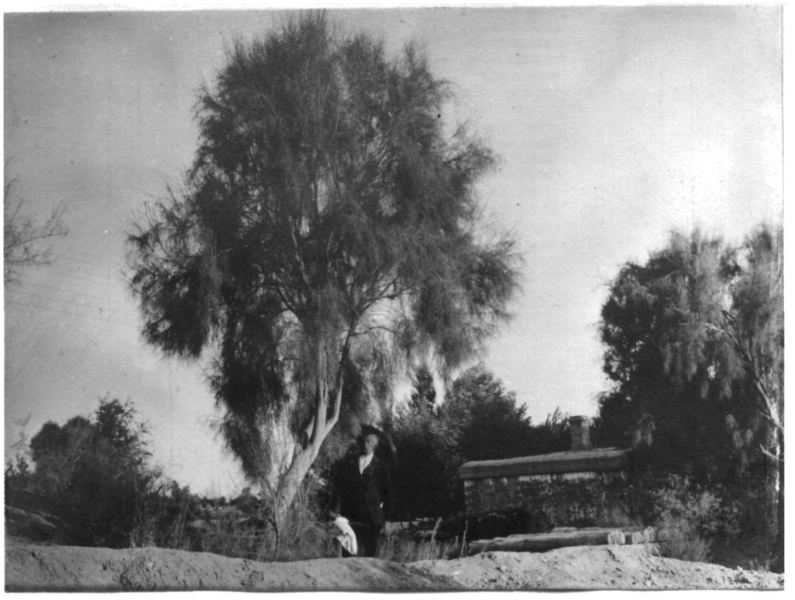
CHINESE TURKESTAN, Kashgar. From Mr. Frank N. Meyer, Agricultural Explorer, we hear under date of October 27, that he has reached Kashgar in safety. There seems to be nothing remarkable to be seen there. The fruits are decidedly poorer there than in Russian Turkestan, and far fewer in varieties. There are a few strange varieties of plums, somewhat between plums and cherries in general looks. Fine varieties of winter melon, which "certainly ought to be boomed in America, as we have nothing like them. The so-called winter peaches they have here are all clingstones, somewhat watery and not very fine in general. There are, however, excellent pomegranates." Mr. Meyer left on October 29 for Yarkand with the British Consul, thence to Khotan, and then to Keria. When returning they expect to make side trips into the mountains to collect all the good things of the country. Botanically, the country from Andishan to Kashgar by way of Osh was extremely poor, the mountains and plains being arid or semi-arid and practically devoid of vegetation. On the Russian side there were still to be seen many wild grasses but dried out and shrivelled, while on the Chinese side there was very little vegetation at all. For a few days they went through absolutely barren regions and where vegetation appeared it consisted of Artemisias and saltbushes.

GREECE, Corfu. From this island, Dr. Charles Sprenger writes October 21 and 29 that he will send us cuttings of the Lecein olive, a variety unusually resistant to cold and frost, a Tuscan variety of Asparagus, and next autumn will send us plants of Asparagus tenuifolius from Florence, as it never fruits there.

INDIA, Calcutta. Mr. R. S. Woglum, of the Bureau of Entomology of this Department, who is visiting the chief Citrus sections of the world in search of parasites of the white-fly, writes under date of October 24 that Mr. Lane, head gardener of the Calcutta Botanical Gardens, has promised to send us as soon as he can get them in proper shape, two or three grafts of each of the best six or seven varieties of Indian mangos. Mr. Lane thinks that this number will cover all the most desirable varieties. A parcel of small bamboo plants will also be sent from these gardens.

INDIA, Simla. Mr. F. Booth Tucker writes October 11 that as he is in the midst of a fine deodar country and if we wish it he can make arrangements to secure seed. He has the promise of alfalfa seed from Kashmir, Quetta and other regions. These will be sent as soon as received. He complains of the great difficulty of baling alfalfa in India, as it breaks up so badly.

PARAGUAY, Capilla Horgueta. Under date of September 26 Mr. T. R. Gwynn writes that he has seed of the "timbo, a large tree like in size to our white oak", but will hold it until he can give us full information on it. He will send seed of the "quavidamiy" and the "guaza", the first a bush the other a luxuriant tree vine, when they ripen in November and December. He will also send us cherimoya seed in December, rubber seed in November, and is trying to secure seeds of two fine timbers, "uoundig" and "cutipaay".



HALOXYLON AMMODENDRON. THE SAXAUL TREE.

The most important sand-binding and fuel tree in Central Asia. Used largely in the sand-binding and desert reclamation work along the Trans-Caspian railroad. It is resistant to alkali and aridity to a considerable degree. S.P.I. No. 28976. (Meyer's photograph, Chartchui, Turkestan, June 18, 1910.)

PRUNUS ARMENIACA. SMOOTH-SKINNED APRICOTS.

These apricots have free sweet kernels, and look like nectarines. May be of use in breeding sweet-kerneled varieties of perhaps greater commercial value than the bitter-kerneled ones. This is distinct from the Acme, the only smooth-skinned apricot known in this country. S.P.I. Nos. 28954 and 28959. (Meyer's photograph, Askabad, Turkestan, June 9, 1910.)

PRUNUS MICROCARPA. WILD CHERRY.

The tall, dark-colored shrub in the center of the picture. This shrubby, small-fruited cherry stands apparently great drought and may prove valuable as a stock for cherries in semi-arid regions of the United States. S.P.I. Nos. 27303, 27337, 28946.(Meyer's photograph, Bachar-den, Turkestan, June 4, 1910.)

PRUNUS PROSTRATA. BUSH-CHERRY.

Two shrubs of this small-fruited cherry in full bloom. This shrub stands a great amount of cold and drought, and may prove valuable as a stock for cherries both in the semi-arid regions and the cold northwest of the United States. S.P.I. Nos. 28022, 28945. (Meyer's photograph, Tiflis, Caucasus, April 25, 1910.)